

THE STATE PORT PILOT

The Pilot Covers
Brunswick County

Most Of The News
All The Time

A Good News paper In A Good Community

OL. NO. FOURTEEN NO. 104

Southport, N. C., Wednesday,

July 14th, 1943

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

\$1.50 PER YEAR

The Southport Is Heard From In A New Role

Former Sub-Chaser That Was Later Used As Fishing Boat Now Running Fruit Between Bahamas And Florida

JOHN D. ERIKSEN WAS FORMER CAPTAIN

Vessel Originally Purchased From Curtis, Of Lindberg Hoax Fame, By C. E. Gause For Local Fish Factory

The Southport, trim 110-foot sub-chaser that did fine service in the first World War, is now running fruit between the Bahamas and Florida. She is in command of Captain Charlie Piner of Morehead City and has recently figured in encounters with enemy submarines. She is now owned by the Phillips Brothers of Morehead City and is in the service of the merchant marine. The story of the boat, previous to her present service, is quite an interesting one. At the conclusion of the first World War the Southport Fish Scrap and Oil company purchased several vessels, among them a 120-foot boat. The purchase was made from Mr. Curtis of Norfolk, the same Curtis who afterwards figured in the attempt to hoax Col. Charles Lindberg, after his son was kidnapped. The price paid for the local vessel was \$23,000.00 and much more was expended in rebuilding and equipping her with new engines.

Rechristened the Southport and brought here, she fished for many years with Mayor John D. Eriksen as captain. During the depression the factory went broke and the Southport was purchased by Morehead City interests that also owned a factory at Southport. The vessel has since divided her time between the factory here and the one at Morehead City. Last fall she was altered and placed in the merchant marine service with Captain Piner in command. The story as told by Captain Piner, while at his home last week, is embodied in the following report from Morehead City:

Captain Charlie, as boatman of the area know him, said the last time the Nazis stopped him he thought his time had come. They held his boat for an hour while Nazis swarmed through the ship, apparently looking for something that would justify them in blowing him to bits. "I told them I was running light ballast," he said, "but they didn't take my word for it. They searched the boat from one end to the other, even tampering with the bulkhead to see if anything valuable had been hidden. I expected any minute to hear the order that would send my ship to the bottom but it never came." He said that finally the German skipper ordered his men back to their boat. I thought even then they might send a torpedo crashing through my boat and it was with a sigh of relief that I saw them making off in another direction.

Captain Piner said the enemy had never caught him with a load. They always caught me when I was going for a load and not when I was returning. I have been lucky, I can tell you that. Had they caught me loaded they probably would have taken every piece of fruit I had. The enemy gets hungry just like anybody else and they would like nothing better than a good cargo of juicy fruit from the Bahamas or Puerto Rico.

Asked if he planned to continue running from the Bahamas, he said he did. "The submarines aren't as aggravating as they were at one time," he said, "and if I can continue to dodge them when loaded everything will be all right." He said the Nazis didn't like to leave a ship on the sea but it is too expensive for them to blow up small food ships. They save their torpedoes for bigger ones, the skipper stated.

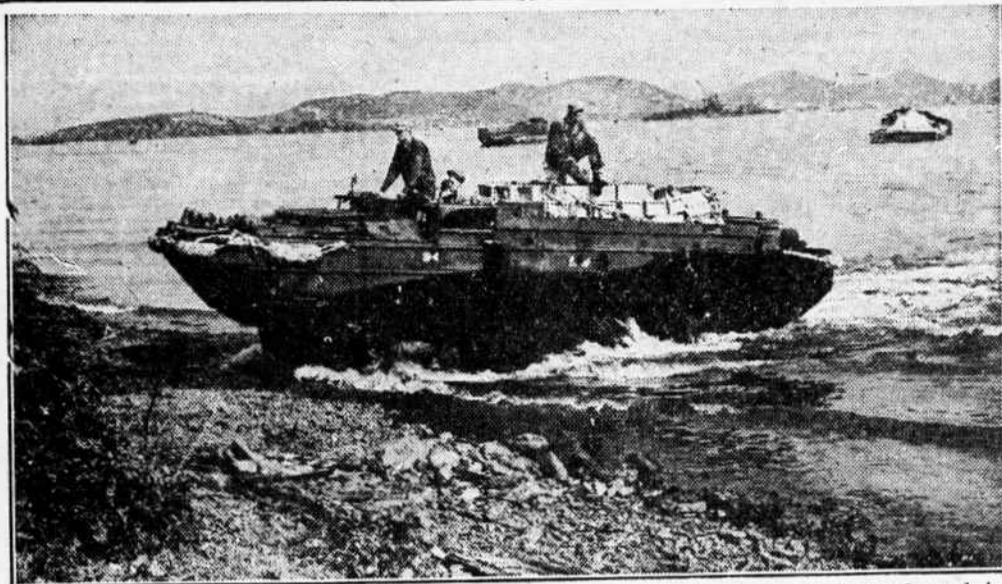
Reports Indicate Blue Fish Here

Commercial Fishermen Are Bringing In Good Catches Daily When Weather Permits Operations

Bluefish, which provide many a thrill to sportsmen who do not like to go far off the coast, seem to be coming back in force after several years of scarcity. Commercial boats from Cartret county now working here are bringing

(Continued On Page Four)

AMPHIBIOUS EQUIPMENT



INVASION—When Allied invasion troops stormed ashore last week-end in Sicily, equipment like the amphibious truck shown above figured prominently in the successful assault. Equally effective in the water or on the land, these vehicles demoralized Italian coast defenses.

Aldermen Decide To Ban Sunday Beer Sales

Members Of Board Of Aldermen In Special Session Monday Night Decide To Come Under Provision Of State Law

LAST OUTLET IN COUNTY CLOSED No More Sales May Be Made Between Hours Of 1:30 Saturday Night And 7 O'clock On Monday Mornings

Members of the board of aldermen for the City of Southport in a special meeting here Monday night voted to come under the state law governing the sale of beer on Sunday. The state law provides that sale of beer from 11:30 p. m. on Saturday night to 7 a. m. on Monday morning shall be banned in counties where action of the board of county commissioners signifies the desire to stop weekend beer sales. The Brunswick county board took the necessary action several weeks ago, leaving the corporate limits of Southport the only place in the county where Sunday sale of beer was permitted. By their action Monday night, the board of aldermen expressed their desire to be included in the ban on beer sales, and this law become effective immediately, since it is a state law and not a local ordinance.

There was some discussion of a plan to require all business places in Southport or be closed during church hours, but no definite action was taken. It is understood that there are blue laws already on the books at the city hall that will cover this situation at any time that members of the board desire to bring about their enforcement.

Aged Resident Dies In City

J. Baker Fountain Died Sunday Evening At Doshier Memorial Hospital Where He Was Taken Following Stroke

J. B. Fountain, 76-year-old citizen of Southport, died at Doshier Memorial Hospital Sunday night where he had been in a critical condition for several days after being discovered at his residence here in an unconscious condition.

It is believed that he suffered from a stroke of some nature. The deceased is a well-known citizen of Southport and was a retired merchant of the community. He is survived by two sons, W. B. Fountain of Norfolk and C. G. Fountain of Atlantic City. N. J. One sister, Mrs. J. S. Sellers, of Washington, also survives.

Funeral services were held Tuesday morning at the graveside in the Southport cemetery, with Rev. R. S. Harrison in charge. Pallbearers were: E. R. Weeks, Butler Thompson, R. C. St. George, J. D. Eriksen, H. T. St. George and J. J. Loughlin, Jr. Honorary pallbearers were: R. F. Plaxco, W. T. Fulwood, M. G. Thompson, Wm. Thompson, C. E. Gause, Fred Doshier, Price Purpess, Capt. J. B. Church, C. N. Swann, C. Ed Taylor, J. W. Ruark and C. G. Ruark.

PATIENT W. S. Sweat, of Long Beach, entered Doshier Memorial Hospital last Wednesday as a medical patient.

Railroad Sale To Be Held Here

At noon Monday the long-awaited public sale of the Wilmington, Brunswick & Southern Railroad will be held at the courthouse door at outport.

There is more than normal interest in the final disposition of this property, for upon the results of this sale rests the future operation of the railroad. Some of the interests who have placed bids for the railroad holdings have frankly admitted that they planned to junk the road and to operate the bus and freight line. Several bidders are expected to be represented, at one of whom will make every possible effort to operate the road in the event he is the successful bidder.

Burns Fatal To Clarence Smith

Ash Youth Who Was Injured In Freakish Accident Died Thursday Morning At Doshier Memorial Hospital

James Clarence Smith, 14-year-old son of C. C. Smith of Ash, died Thursday at Doshier Memorial Hospital of burns sustained on the Saturday before.

According to reports of the fatal accident, it is one of the most freakish to occur in this county in many years. Neighbors say that the boy had been helping fix a truck, and that he had been pouring gasoline into the tank, spilling some on his clothes. He then got behind the vehicle and helped push it off to start it. As the motor began to turn over it caused a back-fire, which ignited the gas-soaked clothing of the dead youth, causing serious burns.

He was brought to Doshier Memorial Hospital for treatment, where his death occurred. Besides his father, he is survived by two sisters, Dora and Doris Smith. Funeral services were conducted at the graveside in Long cemetery Thursday afternoon with the Rev. Mr. Roberts in charge.

Southport Girl Goes To School

Miss Jane Shannon Has Been Selected To Attend The Army Administration School For WAAC Training

Miss Jane M. Shannon, Southport girl, has been selected to attend WAAC Branch No. 3, Army Administration Schools, at the Arkansas State Teachers College. She arrived in Conway on June 26 as a member of the Class number six.

Miss Shannon will be trained thoroughly in all aspects of army administration by competent officers, many of whom have had practical experience with field forces. At the conclusion of the intensive eight weeks' course, she will be assigned to duty with a specific headquarters unit of the Army.

Miss Shannon was enrolled in the WAAC on April 27 at Fort Bragg and received her recruit training at Daytona Beach, Fla. (Continued on page 4)

Record Sales Of Timber In Southern Area

Timber And Other Forest Products Net Almost \$2,000,000.00 During Fiscal Year

REPRESENTS BIG INCREASE IN 1943

This Has Resulted From Tremendous Demand For Forest Products Of All Kinds In War

Record breaking timber sale business for National Forests in the South during the fiscal year just closed has been announced by Joseph C. Kircher, Regional Forester for the U. S. Forest Service. Nearly \$2,000,000 in revenue were returned to the U. S. Treasury from the sale of timber and other forest products.

"This revenue represented an increase of 48 percent over '41-42, which was a year of increase in itself," Kircher said. "War demands for wood have increased greatly the urgency of producing as much timber as possible—timber cut on a selective basis and in accordance with good forestry." "Practically every bit of timber cut and forest products sold went to war industry," Kircher added.

Revenue from the sale of forest products on National Forest land is returned to the Treasury of the United States as a dividend on the public's investment in the National Forest system. Twenty-five percent of the total revenue is distributed to the counties in which the forests lie, in lieu of taxes on publicly owned land. Some counties in the South are receiving a greater return from these National Forest receipts than from similar land in private ownership.

The Southern Region of the National Forest system was established as such only in 1934. The Arkansas National Forest land was largely reserved from the public domain. The land in other National Forests was bought for watershed protection, timber production, and as demonstration units in proper forest management. Most of the land had been badly cut over when purchased and it has been necessary to provide adequate fire protection and stand improvements to bring the land back into productivity. The record breaking achievement was (Continued on Page Four)

USO Club News Of Week

A program of unusual interest will be given at the U. S. O. Club on Wednesday evening. It will be the occasion of the visit of the band of the 144th Infantry Regiment. A concert will be given on the lawn in front of the Club building 7:00 to 8:00. Seats will be provided for the ladies on the veranda. Many will no doubt hear the concert from their cars. From 9:00 to 11:00 the Band will play for the weekly dance. The program has been arranged through the courtesy of Lt. Gerald Barto.

The picture Thursday evening will be "That Other Woman" featuring Virginia Gilmore and James Ellison. On Sunday evening "Sweater Girl" with Eddie Bracken, June Preisser and Betty Rhodes will be shown. The USO projector is in Chicago for overhauling and the loan of the projector from the Section Base is very much appreciated as is also the help of Jack Hickman who

The Potter Boys Lose Their Home When Ship Sinks

Southport Boys Whose Fate Is Still Unknown Came Through Pearl Harbor On The Helena

SHIP WAS SUNK IN LAST WEEKS BATTLE

Reports Credit Cruiser With Sinking Two Enemy Cruisers And Two Destroyers Before She Sank

The U. S. Cruiser, Helena, will go down in history for the part she played in the war in the Pacific. Emerging from Pearl Harbor terribly battered, the good ship came home to the west coast, was quickly repaired and again sailed the seas to do battle with the Japanese.

Last week the final chapter in the life of the Helena was written. She sank in the battle of the central Solomons, but not until she was credited with sinking two Japanese cruisers and a destroyer.

Brunswick people view the record of the Helena with special interest, two Brunswick boys, Frank and Bryant Potter of Southport were both aboard her when the Japs battered her in their treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor.

Soon after Hitler began his attempt at World conquest the Potter boys realized that the United States would ultimately be drawn into the fight. Three and a half years ago they enlisted in the Navy together and both were assigned to the Helena.

When the ship was brought home from Pearl Harbor to be repaired the Brunswick boys came with her and had a short leave at their homes while the vessel was being reconditioned. As this is written no word has been received regarding whether either of the local men were among the 600 out of the crew of more than 800, were saved. It is only known that the Helena went down as a heroic ship.

Among the many stories appearing in the press last week regarding the Helena, the following, appearing Saturday morning, is credited to the Associated Press:

"Another name—that of the fighting cruiser Helena—can be added to the list of warships famous in American history.

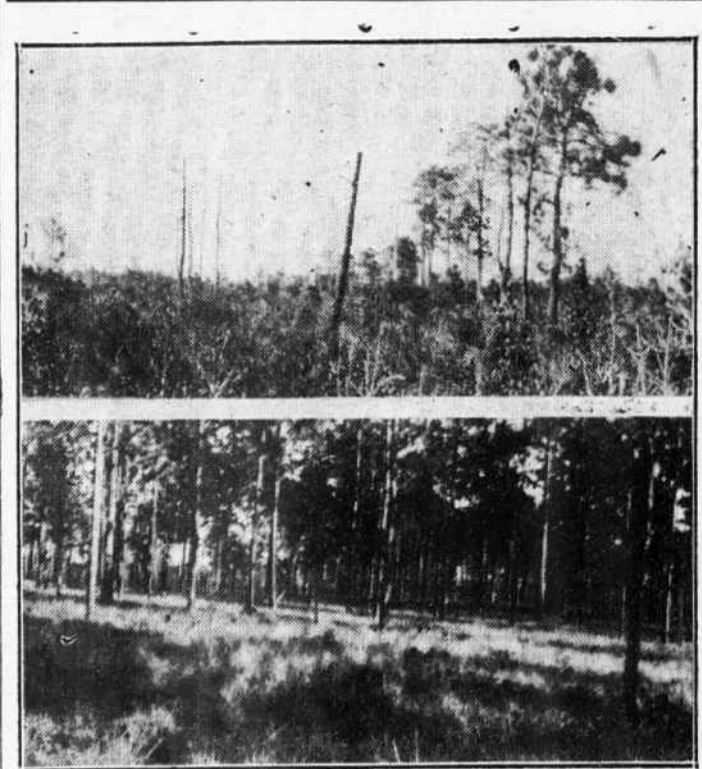
The dying moments of the ship that went down with guns still firing on the enemy were the most dramatic of the decisive American naval victory over the Japanese in the pre-dawn darkness of July 6 in Kula Gulf—a victory that played an important part in the apparently early doom of the important enemy air base at Munda on New Georgia Island.

That victory prevented large-scale reinforcements from reaching the Japanese, now menaced at Munda on two sides by American invaders. At one point drenched United States forces were only three miles away and were slowly advancing through the jungle, soaked for four days by torrential rains.

(J. Norman Lodge, Associated Press correspondent in the South Pacific, reported that the Helena sank at least two cruisers and two destroyers before it was sunk. Lodge's reports indicated that the Helena sank one of the destroyers after its own bow had been blown off.)

Six Hundred Saved. Nine to 11 Japanese warships were sent to the bottom in the battle in the narrow waters between the north end of New Georgia.

TIMBER DEMONSTRATION



CONTRAST—About twelve miles from Southport on the Wilmington highway there is a pretty stand of young pine timber, shown below. Across the road, and in direct contrast, is the straggling, burned-over bit of waste land shown above. The moral is to keep the fire out of your growing timber.

Tire Situation Is Bad According To Official

Luck So Bad There Was Just No Alibi

On a fresh water fishing trip Tuesday morning, Jake Wade, Sports Editor of the Charlotte Observer, caught one little grayhead perch. Mrs. Wade, Billy Bragaw and W. B. Keziah had one bite apiece, but got nothing.

The day seemed perfect for fishing. They had access to Orton pond, about the best body of fishing water in the state. All four are experienced. There was not a thing, so far as anyone could see, in the way of making a big catch. Jim Feger, manager of the plantation, refused to believe that they had been on the pond, as they had nothing to show for it.

It was a novel experience, not the least of the unusual because that nobody tried to alibi the failure to make a catch. They just didn't get 'em.

Prominent Man Dies In County

H. I. Bennett Passes At Home Of Daughter In Shallotte Following Lengthy Illness

H. I. Bennett, respected citizen of the Shallotte section, died Monday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. R. B. Hawes. He was 80 years of age and was prominently connected with one of this county's most highly respected families.

He is survived by seven daughters, Mrs. R. B. Hawes, Mrs. H. G. Hewett, Mrs. Ernest Parker, Shallotte, Mrs. Henry B. Day, Raleigh, Mrs. Fred Saunders, Mrs. Beatrice Sabiston, Norfolk, and Mrs. E. V. Leonard, Carolina Beach; three sons, H. B. Bennett, Shallotte, Col. Ivan L. Bennett of the U. S. Army; Nelson Bennett, Longwood; one brother, Benny Bennett, Shallotte; 33 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday afternoon at 3 p. m. at the home of Nelson Bennett by the Rev. Woodrow Robbins and (Continued on Page Four)

Bolivia Club Meeting Held

The Bolivia Home Demonstration Club held its July meeting in the home economic room at Bolivia school house.

In the absence of a Home Demonstration Agent no business was taken up. General discussions were held on home making, home beautification and community building through club work.

Talks were very interesting and helpful. Games were directed by Mrs. Frank Mintz. The hostesses, Mrs. John Danford and Mrs. Tom Lewis, served crackers and iced drinks which all enjoyed. The next meeting will be held the first Tuesday in August, with the new home agent.

Officials Urge Preparation Of Kids For School

Urge That Parents Have All Children Expecting To Enter School This Fall Vaccinated To Meet Requirements

HIGH CANDIDATES ARE ADMONISHED

Students Expecting To Enter High School Urged To Contact Principals To Discuss Work They Desire

As the opening date for the schools of the county draws nearer, the principals of the various schools are anxious that parents begin now to prepare their children for the opening. All parents who have children to enter school for the first time, or who have children who will be six years of age by October 1st, are urged to have their children examined by a physician and vaccinated for all pre-school requirements at the earliest possible date. Only those children who will be six years of age by October 1st, or who are within the compulsory attendance age will be permitted to enroll in the schools. The principals urge that parents enroll their children on the opening date for pre-orientation work.

Students who are entering the high school for the first time should contact their principal and discuss the work they desire. Only students who have completed the 8th grade will be eligible for registration in any high school in the county. Students who expect to enter the armed service, or enter war industrial plants at the close of the 1943-44 term should discuss their registration with the principal prior to the opening of schools. Any student interested in nursing as a profession should discuss their situation with their vocational instructors and principal prior to the opening of schools.

During the year the schools will offer special courses for the students who are preparing for the college speed-up program; nursing; pre-industrial; and war industries. All principals will be in their offices on and after the 15th of August for interviews, consultations and registrations. Although the principals and teachers will be under many handicaps this year, their plans are to render all services possible to the boys and girls of the county in connection with their years work.

Flying A Bomber In Sicily Now

Sergeant Teddy Lewis Believed By His Mother To Be Piloting His Bomber With Invasion Forces In Sicily

With the bombers playing a major part in the wresting of Africa from Italy. Sergeant Teddy Lewis, son of Mrs. Brady Lewis, is believed to have had his machine among the aircraft that formed the protecting screen over the more than two thousand ships that carried the troops on the invasion of Sicily.

The bombers are kept going to and from, engaged in the softening up process before and while the troops landed. The protection of the ships and troops while and after the landings were made appears to have been in the hands of the fighter planes.

Mrs. Lewis says that Sergeant Lewis participated in the bombing during the closing days in Africa and that afterwards he was striking at Sicily for the softening up. Naturally, she has not heard from him since the invasion.

Lieutenant Churchill Bragaw, of Southport, is also understood to have been with the invasion forces. This conclusion is based on his company having been active during the closing days in Africa and that much of the African forces are now in Sicily.

Prepare Cotton Now For Ginning

Gin Specialist Urges Cotton Growers To Let Crops Ripen Before Carrying Them To The Gin

Cotton picking and ginning are just around the corner now and it is a good time to remember that neither "green" nor "damp" cotton can be ginned without (Continued On Page Four)

Local Fisherman Makes A Record

Clarence Varnum Sets Record For Single Day's Catch While Fishing One Of Hardee Boats At Morgan City

The Sea Baron, one of the fleet of big shrimpers that Lewis J. Hardee of Southport is now operating in Louisiana, set a record for one production day recently by bringing in 300-bushels of shrimp. The whole catch was made between eleven in the morning and sunset. The catch brought \$7.50 per bushel.

The boat was in charge of Captain Clarence Varnum of Supply and was operating off Morgan City, La., at the time. Hardee also operates a shipping house at Southport and while at home (Continued on page four)